

What is claimed is:

1 1. In a multicolor printing method, a plurality of
removable ink drums replaceable with each other are fed with
respective masters by fixed master feeding devices smaller
in number than said plurality of ink drums via a replacement
5 of said plurality of ink drums and are used for printing.

1 2. In a multicolor printing method, after a master has
been wrapped around an ink drum by a master making device
including a master feeding function and a master discharging
function, said ink drum is mounted to a multicolor printing
5 device capable of accommodating a plurality of removable ink
drums, but void of a master making arrangement including a
master feeding function and a master discharging function,
and used for printing.

1 3. A multicolor printing system comprising:
a master making device capable of feeding a new master
and discharging a used master and allowing an ink drum to be
removably mounted thereto;

5 a multicolor printer loaded with a plurality of
removable ink drums, but void of a master making
arrangement including a master feeding function and a master
discharging function; and

 a plurality of ink drums shared by said master making
10 device and said multicolor printer.

1 4. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said master making device and said multicolor printer are separable from each other.

1 5. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said master making device comprises a printer accommodating a single replaceable drum.

1 6. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said printer comprises a conventional printer accommodating a single replaceable drum.

1 7. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said ink drums each is capable of being mounted to any desired one of a plurality of drum mounting sections included in said multicolor printer.

1 8. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said ink drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout said system.

1 9. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein a downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums
5 next to the downstream ink drum.

1 10. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said master making device comprises a printer accommodating a single replaceable drum.

1 11. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said
printer comprises a conventional printer accommodating a
single replaceable drum.

1 12. A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said ink
drums each is capable of being mounted to any desired one of
a plurality of drum mounting sections included in said
multicolor printer.

1 13. A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said ink
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout
said system.

1 14. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ink
drums each is capable of being mounted to any desired one of
a plurality of drum mounting sections included in said
multicolor printer.

1 15. A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said ink
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout
said system.

1 16. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein said ink
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout
said system.

1 17. A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein a
downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of
paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting
mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums
5 next to the downstream ink drum.

1 18. A multicolor printing system comprising:
a plurality of removable ink drums replaceable with
each other and capable of implementing simultaneous
multicolor printing;

5 a fixed master feeding device shared by said plurality of
ink drums; and

at least one master discharging device.

1 19. A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said ink
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout
said system.

1 20. A system as claimed in claim 19, wherein a
downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of
paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting
mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums
5 next to the downstream ink drum.

1 21. A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein a
downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of
paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting
mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums
5 next to the downstream ink drum.

1 22. A multicolor printing system comprising:
a fixed master feeding device;
a main printer including at least one removable ink
drum; and

5 an auxiliary printer connected to said main printer by an
intermediate conveying unit and including at least one
removable ink drum, but not including a master feeding
device;

 said at least one ink drum of said main printer and said
10 at least one ink drum of said auxiliary printer being
replaceable with each other.

1 23. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein a plurality
of said auxiliary printers are serially connected together.

1 24. A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein said ink
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout
said system.

1 25. A system as claimed in claim 24, wherein a
downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of
paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting
mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums
5 next to the downstream ink drum.

1 26. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said ink
drums are replaced in an identical angular position throughout
said system.

1 27. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein a
downstream one of said ink drums in an intended direction of
paper conveyance is provided with a phase adjusting
mechanism acting only on an upstream one of said ink drums
5 next to the downstream ink drum.